16th December 1954]

Number of votes declared invalid in the recent district board elections.

* 373 *Q.*—Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state how many votes were invalidated in the recent district board elections in the State?

The Hon. Sri S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" The total number of votes declared invalid in the recent elections to all the district boards in the State is reported to be 554,285."

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, if the Government are not prudent enough to foresee things, will they at least learn from experience? When a system of voting has led to such a large volume of invalid votes, will the Government see that the experiment is not repeated in future? "

The Hon. Sri S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" The volume of invalid votes is not considered to be large. However, the suggestion of the hon. Member is under the consideration of the Government."

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" What is the percentage of invalid votes to the total number of votes polled in the elections? "

The Hon. Sri S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" The percentage is 8·6."

Sri V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Has not this system of voting, in spite of its many defects, helped the voters to become literacy-minded? "

Sinking of wells for Harijans in Coimbatore district.

* 374 *Q.*—Sri P. G. MANICKAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of wells ordered by the Government to be dug in Coimbatore district in the year 1954–55 for the use of Harijans for drinking purposes;

(*b*) the number of wells dug so far;

(*c*) whether the Government have any proposal to dig wells in Gobichettipalayam and Bhavani taluks for drinking purposes for Harijans residing on the banks of Bhavani and Cauveri rivers in the current year; and

(*d*) if so, how many?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Orders of Government are not necessary for sinking rural water-supply wells. Collectors are competent to sanction the works after obtaining the sanction of the Board of Revenue where necessary.

" (*b*) One new well was dug and four old wells were deepened.

" (*c*) There is no such proposal at present.

" (*d*) Does not arise."